



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
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**Lt. Governor's Office on Aging Awards \$20,000
Seed Grant to the ARK of Dorchester**

(Columbia S.C.) Caregivers and families of people suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in Berkeley, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, and Orangeburg counties will have expanded opportunities available to them for support and education, thanks to a new program funded with a \$20,000 start-up grant from the South Carolina Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.

Peg Lahmeyer of The ARK traveled to Columbia last Wednesday, June 28, to receive the award and attend a grantee workshop put on by the state Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC). ARCC Coordinator Fran Brannon presented the awards on behalf of Lt. Governor André Bauer.

The ARK's leaders say the organization plans to use the grant award for their NOAH Project (Neighborhood Outreach Alzheimer's Help). The project will be dedicated to expanding Alzheimer's support services into small towns and rural areas that have little access to care resources in anticipation of a rapidly growing dementia population. This objective will be accomplished by identifying interested stakeholders in rural communities, offering training, and providing supportive services that will create a culture of caring in small town South Carolina.

According to Brannon, the seed grants provided by the Office on Aging's ARCC serve a critical role in helping jump-start new community programs that help the growing number of Alzheimer's patients in the state and the loved ones who care for them.

"This year's recipients will join 64 other programs statewide that were started with ARCC seed grants that are now self-sustaining and providing much-needed services in communities across the state," said Brannon.

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The ARCC was created to provide statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families and caregivers. Each year, the Center provides seed money through a competitive grants process to help local communities build self-sustaining programs that will provide education and support to individuals in South Carolina suffering from Alzheimer's disease, their families and caregivers.

A complete list of the grantees for 2006 can be found online at the following URL:

<http://www.aging.sc.gov/AgingNewsService/ANSCurrent.htm>

More information about the ARCC can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.aging.sc.gov/Seniors/ARCC.htm>

According to research from the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health, there are approximately 50,000 individuals in South Carolina with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ARD), and that number is projected to grow to 90,000 by 2030. The impact upon South Carolina's Medicaid program, families and businesses will be considerable.

Since the average lifetime cost of care for an individual with Alzheimer's is \$174,000, the cost to South Carolina families, individuals, insurance companies, businesses, Medicaid and Medicare would be \$8.7 billion for the current 50,000 individuals diagnosed with ARD. By 2030 that figure could increase to at least \$15.7 billion.

Source: South Carolina Mature Adults Count 2006 Report - Opportunities, Challenges and Choices. Available online at the following URL:

http://www.scmatureadults.org/MA06_index.asp (scroll down to "Health" in the table of contents for a direct link to the Alzheimer's statistics.

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(photo & caption follows, next page)



The ARK of Dorchester County's Peg Lahmeyer was presented with a \$20,000 grant award for a new program that will serve Alzheimer's patients in Berkeley, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, and Orangeburg counties by Fran Brannon of the Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center on Wednesday, June 28 at the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging in Columbia. Pictured (from left to right) are Barbara Kelly and Eve Barth of the Office on Aging, Lahmeyer and Brannon.

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